



#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Mien-chie Hung et al.

Art Unit: 1642

Serial No.:

09/637,190

Examiner: Karen A. Canella

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: August 11, 2000

Title

: PREDICTING SURVIVAL OF PATIENTS WITH SQUAMOUS CELL

CARCINOMA

### **BOX AF**

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

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# RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED APRIL 9, 2002

In response to the action mailed April 9, 2002 ("Office Action"), please amend the application as follows:

# In the specification:

Replace the bridging paragraph between pages 1 and 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The invention also features a method of determining whether a subject (e.g., a human patient) with squamous cell carcinoma has a lymph node containing cancerous cells by determining a level of maspin gene expression in a biological sample from a subject with squamous cell carcinoma; and comparing the level with a threshold level of maspin gene expression. A level of maspin gene expression in the biological sample above a threshold level indicates that the subject does not have a lymph node containing cancerous cells, and a level of maspin gene expression in the biological sample below a threshold level indicates that the subject has a lymph node containing cancerous cells. --

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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